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## **Guitar virtuoso Pavel Steidl opens 2016-17 MASNO season in New Orleans**

Visionary guitarist and composer Pavel Steidl will present a pair of solo concerts in New Orleans, October 21 and 23. He will launch the 2016-2017 season for the Musical Arts Society of New Orleans (MASNO) with a house concert in the Lower Garden District, and will add luster to the calendar of Marigny Opera House with an additional show.

Celebrated internationally for his boundary-busting technical wizardry and original compositions, Steidl is equally acclaimed for his soulful approach to the classical repertoire. His New Orleans programs range from transcriptions of J.S. Bach and Niccolò Paganini to folk-drenched Iberian works by Ferdinand Sor and Pedro Tirado. Steidl also will present his own composition, “And you go to Ithaca, too?”

Performed on an acoustic instrument, “Ithaca” evokes both country blues and the soaring ecstatic lines of rock guitarists such as Jimi Hendrix. The piece also showcases Steidl’s use of throat singing, a vocal technique, common in many indigenous cultures, which creates eerie, near-electronic overtones.

When Steidl performed at the Cleveland Institute of Music in 2012, the reviewer for clevelandclassical.com detailed the guitarist’s many virtues: “Steidl’s dynamic extremes, endlessly varied articulations, playful rhythms, vast palette of colors, musical chuckles and shrugs, and pickups comically isolated from their downbeats kept everything fresh and new. When high notes seemed to suspend themselves in space, Steidl looked comically at the ceiling.”

Both new Orleans concerts take place in intimate settings well suited to Steidl’s all-acoustic performances.

Steidl performs Friday, October 21, 8 p.m., at Marigny Opera House, 725 St. Ferdinand St., New Orleans. Tickets are available online: \$35 General/ \$25 Students & Seniors. For details go to [marignyoperahouse.com](http://marignyoperahouse.com).

MASNO will host Steidl for an afternoon house concert in the Lower Garden District, October 23, 3 p.m., 1133 Margaret Place, New Orleans. Tickets are \$25 and include the concert plus a reception following. Purchase tickets at [masno.org](http://masno.org) or by calling 504.899.4826. Space is limited.



*Photo by Vilém Žák*

**Links to videos:**

<http://classicalguitarmagazine.com/video-pick-of-the-week-pavel-steidl-plays-domeniconis-hommage-a-jimi-hendrix/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mul1f9uzgyXg>

